

E. CLAY SHAW
22D DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

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Leading on Social Security Pays Off

Dear Republican Colleague:

I commend to your attention the following article from one of my hometown newspapers, the *Palm Beach Post*, agreeing that my plan to strengthen Social Security does not "privatize" Social Security, and rejecting Democrats' attacks, including those made by Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, in a recent visit to my district.

Our message is the right message when it comes to strengthening Social Security for all generations. That's why it's so important that we be out front on Social Security. Sponsoring H.R. 3497, the *Social Security Guarantee Plus Act of 2001*, shows your support for strengthening Social Security for generations to come while maintaining full benefits, enhancing benefits for women, and preventing the job killing taxes referred to by the *Post* when it said "Leading Democrats would let it [i.e. Social Security] self-destruct and hope for a future Congress to save it at the last minute with higher taxes. Rep. Shaw is trying to act on Social Security now. The future Congress the Democrats count on will curse the generation that played games with it."

My staff can provide you with any information you may need to educate your constituents on the challenges faced by Social Security and the options for strengthening this vitally important program. Also, to cosponsor my bill, please contact the Social Security Subcommittee at 225-9263. Further information on the Guarantee Plus Plan is available on my web site: <http://www.house.gov/shaw/ssindex.html>

Sincerely,

Clay Shaw, Jr.

Roberts off the mark

Palm Beach Post - Tuesday, April 2, 2002

Carol Roberts is just plain wrong about U.S. Rep. Clay Shaw, R-Fort Lauderdale, and Social Security. So is House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., when he sings harmony with her.

Twice now, in less than a month, the Palm Beach County commissioner, a Democrat who plans to run against Rep. Shaw this year, said the incumbent's plan would deplete the Social Security trust fund. Rep. Gephardt, standing next to her last week in West Palm Beach, said Rep. Shaw's proposal would "privatize Social Security."

No. Unlike other lawmakers who would create private accounts, Rep. Shaw would not touch money earmarked, now or in the future, for Social Security. He would create a refundable tax credit as Uncle Sam's way to match money people put in personal retirement savings. He would give the government a role like that of an employer who supplements employee contributions to a 401(k) account. The federal money would come from projected surpluses in the operating budget.

Rep. Shaw helped to deplete those surpluses by voting last year for President Bush's tax cut. Mr. Bush claimed to be using only one-fourth of the projected 10-year surplus. With the anti-terrorism war and new estimates, his 25 percent looks more like 100 percent. Commissioner Roberts could nail Rep. Shaw over his tax-cut vote, but with Mr. Bush's ratings high, most Democrats have become afraid to say what they know is true: The cut mortgaged the future.

Commissioner Roberts said Rep. Shaw would use his Ways and Means subcommittee chairmanship to bring his bill to a vote if he believed in it, but House leaders, of whom Rep. Gephardt is one, made Social Security taboo until after the election. Both sides are scared of what a debate could do to them. Leading Republicans would destroy Social Security as a universal program. Leading Democrats would let it self-destruct and hope for a future Congress to save it at the last minute with higher taxes. Rep. Shaw is trying to act on Social Security now. The future Congress the Democrats count on will curse the generation that played games with it.